

EXHIBIT A**Marked-up version of the amended specification**

On page 10, line 16, replace the paragraph beginning with "More preferably" with the following paragraph:

More preferably, the silica has specific BET or CTAB surfaces, both of which are from 80 m²/g to 260 m²/g. The [BET] Brunauer-Emmett-Teller (BET) specific surface area is determined in known manner, in accordance with the method of Brunauer, Emmet and Teller described in "*The Journal of the American Chemical Society*", vol. 60, page 309, February 1938, and corresponding to Standard AFNOR-NFT-45007 (November 1987). The [CTAB] cetyl trimethyl ammonium bromide (CTAB) specific surface area is the external surface area determined in accordance with Standard AFNOR-NFT-45007 of November 1987.

On page 19, line 18, replace the paragraph beginning with "For Compositions" with the following paragraph:

For Compositions 3 to 6 according to the invention, SBR C is an SBR functionalized with hexamethylcyclotrisiloxane, such that it comprises a dimethylsilanol group at the chain end. Reference may be made to French patent specification [FR-A-2 740 778] FR-A-2,740,778 for a detailed description of the synthesis of this functionalized SBR.

On page 22, line 2, replace the paragraph beginning with "- "X5OS" is a silica/elastomer" with the following paragraph:

- "X5OS" is a silica/elastomer bonding agent sold by Degussa that is formed by the association of the bonding agent "Si69" (bis-3-(triethoxysilylpropyl) tetrasulphide) and carbon black N330 in a [50/5 0] 50/50 weight ratio.

On page 23, line 13, replace the paragraph beginning with "Start of irregular" with the following paragraph:

Start of irregular wear [(1000 km) (1000 km)]	48		80	80	80	80
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